

Abstract

Intrinsic material and optical properties of liquid crystal units, such as variable response to wavelength and temperature variations, are accommodated in accordance with the invention by introducing at least a pair of wave plates of different thicknesses which, together with the retardation introduced by the liquid crystal, serve to broaden the wavelength of response in fashion which also athermalizes the response. Specific retardations and angles of inclination relative to the input polarization are employed for overcoming these nonlinearities.